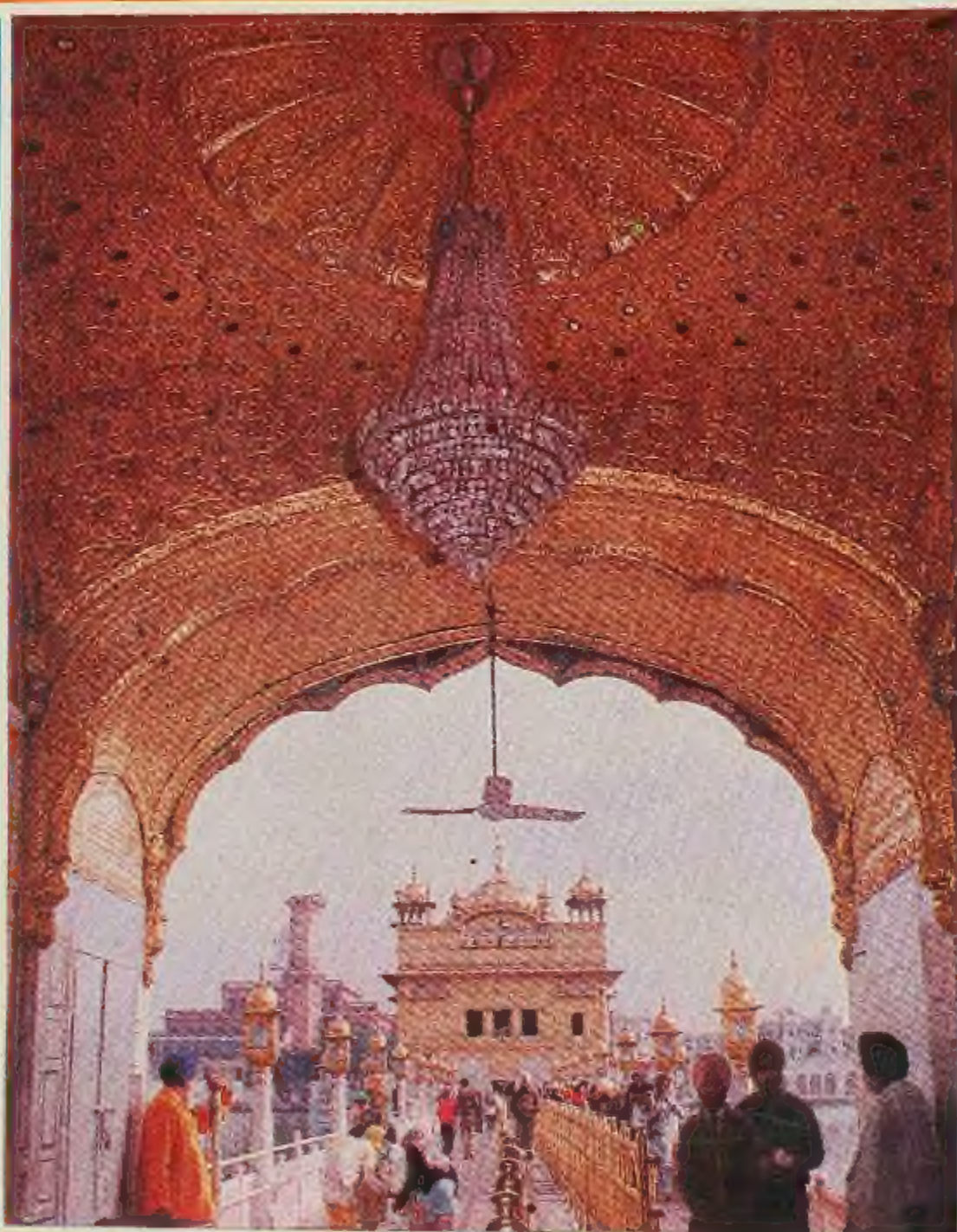


RELIGIOUS-CULTURAL
AND
HISTORICAL PLACES
OF
PUNJAB





MESSAGE



Punjab is rightly known as the cradle of civilisation having a rich cultural heritage. It is the land where the holy Ramayana and Geeta were first echoed, the land where the mystic soul of Kabir found its resonance in the inspirational hymns of Guru Nanak, the land where the sublime grandeur of Guru Gobind Singh's spirit introduced a rhythm in the monotony of wooden orthodoxy in India. This unparalleled heritage is etched in every nook and corner of this state. Be it the divine melody flowing forth from the holy Sri Harmandir Sahib or the inspired songs of spiritual valour that fill the atmosphere in Sri Anandpur Sahib or the hymns of love and compassion ringing forth from the holy Durgiana Temple, Amritsar. All of these are, but divine notes on a spiritual harmony.

The stately Gurdwara Sahib at Sri Fatehgarh Sahib and the soothing peace prevailing at Gurdwara Dukh Niwaran in Patiala speak of an era that produced effulgent mysticism which appears to be getting somewhat eroded by the deeds of a few misguided people. Nevertheless, Punjab's heritage is too robust to be either forgotten or lost. Whenever the Punjabis, or for that matter, the whole mankind, needs a reason to find meaning in life, all we have to do is turn to this heritage.

The endeavour of Information and Public Relations Department to publish a booklet depicting various cultural, historical and religious places of importance in Punjab is, indeed, a commendable step in the right direction at a time when there is a need to make present generation aware of its glorious past. This would go a long way in enriching the moral and ethical values of life as professed by our great Gurus, Rishis, Munis and Saints. These values also represent the confident spirit of modern India and are a source of strength and inspiration to the countrymen in general and the Punjabis in particular. This spirit, which in itself, is the embodiment of Punjab's composite culture, glorious heritage, religious tolerance, peace and amity, needs to be properly projected.

—BEANT SINGH

Front Title: Golden Temple, Amritsar—The pool of nectar

Inside: Barki Memorial, Ferozepur

FOREWORD



GENESIS

There is a hymn in Rig Veda which graphically describes the birth of Punjab when a sudden cataclysm accompanied by lightning, storm and earthquake punctured the rim of the southern embankment of the mammoth lake which covered what is now a large part of the Himalayas at seven places causing seven rivers to flow whose silt created the fertile plain which was, then, called Sapt-Sindhu.

One of the seven rivers, Saraswati dried up due to an earthquake which dislocated it from its source. The plain of the Sindh river was conquered by the Arabs long before other invaders were able to establish a foot-hold beyond the Khybar Pass. It was at this point of time that in place of Sapt-Sindhu the land of remaining five rivers acquired its new name, PUNJAB literally : five-waters.

MAHATMA GANDHI & PROF. LALLANJI GOPAL : AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE :

"Historically Punjab may be considered the most important Province of India. It was here that the Aryas of the Vedic times first made their homes. It was here that the hymns of the Rig Veda were chanted. It was to this Province at the University of Taxila that seekers after knowledge flocked from various parts of the world... The Scythians, the Tartars and the Persians had to measure swords with the sons of Punjab in their attempt to penetrate India."—M.K. Gandhi

It were the Punjabis who had negated Alexander's dream of world conquest and sacrificed 85% of the total lives that were lost during India's freedom struggle against the British Raj.

"I feel honoured in being in Punjab. An indescribable thrill creeps through my person. I become conscious of the long caravan of people who have contributed down the centuries to the building of the rich historical personality of the Punjab... we journey back to the times of the Rigveda, when people lived a life of healthy, natural simplicity, but visualised poetry of sublime beauty, earlier still when the Harrapans developed industrial technique and commercial organisation to evolve a culture with surprisingly urban characteristics or further back when the pre-historic man was struggling to maintain himself in the challenging realities of the contemporary life... Punjab is a land of people of indefatigable courage and bravery, of matchless industry and perseverance and of exemplary adaptability and catholicity. That is why Punjab has always made the mark of its personality felt by other parts of the country. Even now the valiant sons of Punjab, whether living in a distant part of the country or far-off

land, bring glory to the country by toiling in the fields or working in industrial set-ups, fighting for the defence of the motherland or representing the country in games and sports, enriching the varied cultural life and adding to the fund of the scientific knowledge."

(L. Gopal) Prof. Ancient History, Banaras Hindu University.

The present State of Indian Punjab is but a shadow of its former self. The best part of it which included the world famous metropolitan city of Lahore became part of Pakistan in 1947. In 1966 what remained of this Punjab was further fragmented into Haryana and Himachal Pradesh when several landmarks like the Imperial Summer Capital of the British Raj, Shimla, and the great historical town of Kurukshetra were cut away from it further. What remains of the landmass today is still known as the No. 1 State of India.

On account of geo-historical factors, the best part of historical Punjab, perhaps, lies underground, if ruins of great historical sites be any testimony. But inspite of these apparent handicaps Punjab is still replete with places of historical and cultural importance spanning millenia. At Dholbaha in Hoshiarpur District, there is an archaeological site showing evidence of the stone-age man. Ram Tirath near Amritsar and Ghuram in Patiala Distt. are associated with Ramayana. At Kalanaur, an unsug village in Gurdaspur Distt. the greatest emperor of his times, Akbar-the-Great was crowned. At Bhatinda there is an 1800 years old fort still in good shape. There is the Rauza (mausoleum) of Sheikh Ahmed Farooqi Alf-Saani at Sirhind sometimes described as the second Mecca of Sunni Muslims and there is hardly any district or town in Punjab where one may not come across cultural, religious and historical place of importance.

People following all great religions of the world reside in Punjab. While they respect their own religions and follow them devoutly, they have imbibed from tradition a rare talent of respecting other people's religions equally so that in Punjab we have a society which in spirit and reality is based on universal love and brotherhood.

Surinder Kapur

State Minister of Information and
Public Relations, Punjab

PUNJAB



AMRITSAR



Golden Temple

Amritsar, which literally means 'pool of nectar', lies twenty kilo-metres east of the Indo-Pakistan border. Guru Ramdas, the fourth Guru of the Sikhs, in his desire to create a central congregational place for his followers decided to build a temple on the land he had obtained as a grant from Emperor Akbar. Here a tank was excavated and a temple was got built by the Fifth Guru, Guru Arjan Dev in its midst and a new city began to grow up round the sacred pool. Within the temple was placed the

Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy Scripture. Ever since then it has been the most sacred shrine for the Sikhs all over the world.

Golden Temple

During the days of Ranjit Singh the lower half of the temple was decorated with marble while the entire upper half was inlaid with copper covered over by gold plate, hence its name the Golden Temple. It is also called 'Darbar Sahib' (the Court Divine) or Hari

Mandir (the temple of Lord),

The Golden Temple is three-storeyed, the top being canopied gilded dome surrounded by golden turrets. There are also some nice frescos and fine filigree and enamel work in gold. On the ground floor where the sacred book *Guru Granth Sahib* is kept, the ceremony of worship and offering and the chorus of devotional music continues to be performed almost throughout the day. On special occasions like the birthday anniversaries of the Gurus and the *Diwali* the Temple is illuminated profusely and huge crowds assemble in it.

Durgiana Temple

Situated outside the Lohgarh Gate is the famous *Lakshmi Narain Temple* commonly known as *Durgiana Temple*. It stands in the midst of a beautiful tank. Its foundation-stone was laid by the late *Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya*. The temple attracts



Durgiana Mandir

Memory of Sacrifice : Jallianwala Bagh



sages and scholars in *Hindu* scriptures from all over India.

Jallianwala Bagh

About half a km. from the Golden Temple is the *Jallianwala Bagh* which is sacred to the people of India as a temple of the 'Goddess of Liberty.' It was here that about 1500 to 2000 persons who were attending a peaceful meeting during the freedom movement fell under the bullets

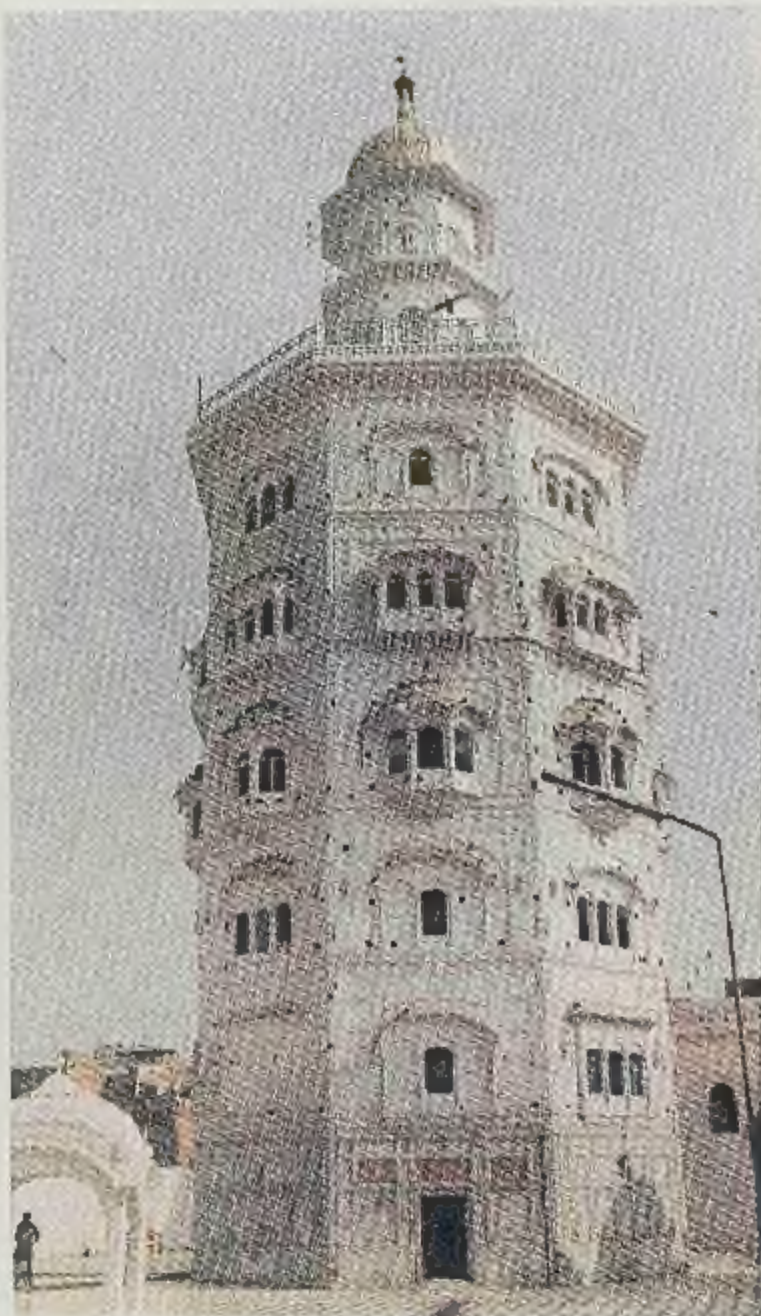
of the British General Dyer, on April 13, 1919. The bullet marks on the boundary wall of this enclosed garden can be seen even now along with the well into which many helpless people jumped to escape the volleys of bullets being fired at them. Jallianwala Bagh is now a spacious and well laid park with the memorial in the shape of the eternal flame perpetuating the memory of the incident which is a constant reminder of the ruthlessness of the imperialist administration and repression of Indian people at the hands of the British. Homage to the martyrs is paid every year on the Baisakhi Day.

Akal Takhat

About forty meters from the main sanctum of Hari Mandir is the Akal Takhat or the Immortal Throne standing in a marble-paved square. The Sixth Guru Sri Har Gobind used it as his throne. The weapons used by the Sikh Gurus and some old and beautiful jewellery donated to the shrine by the Sikh rulers of the Punjab are also kept here. These weapons and the jewellery are exhibited only on special occasions. Here also devotional recitation goes on and offerings are made.

Tower of Baba Atal Rai

About three hundred meters from Sri Hari Mandir is the famous tower of Baba Atal, sacred to the memory of Baba



Tower of Baba Atal Rai

Atal Rai son of Har Gobind ji, the 6th Guru. This magnificent structure stands as a memorial to that brave spirit and over the exact spot where it departed from this life. It is said that Atal Rai performed a miracle for which he was reproved by his father. Realising his error he laid down

his life at this spot. The tower is an octagonal nine-storied structure about 50 meters high. Here, too, the Adi Granth is kept and the same propriety is observed as at other religious places. On the walls one can see several beautiful frescos relating to the life of Guru Nanak and from the



Gurdwara Tarn Taran Sahib.

roof a most rewarding view of the city of Amritsar may be obtained. Facing the tower is another sacred tank, called the 'Kaulsar'. Near this is the 'Seraf' of Guru Ram Dass where free food is served to the poor.

Amritsar is also an important educational and industrial centre. Khalsa College, Amritsar founded in 1892 is a unique institution. There are a number of cotton, woollen and art silk textile factories besides other industries dealing with electric goods, sewing machines, auto parts, carpets etc. The milk processing plant at Verka about 6 kms. from Amritsar is the second biggest project of its kind in the country.

Before the partition of India in 1947 Amritsar used to be a flourishing commercial centre and a very important town coming next, if at all, only to the then capital of Punjab, Lahore. The fact that it now lies in such proximity to the border has made it strategically important also at the same time without affecting its population and prosperity. It continues to enjoy not only the religious sanctity which has given it celebrity but also its importance on account of its trade and commerce and art and industry. The Indian Academy of Fine Arts here is an institution devoted to the teaching and development of arts, painting and sculpture. The Academy has a

permanent picture gallery in which paintings of famous artists have been displayed.

In the age of air-transport Amritsar has once again assumed its role as a central point on important routes linking India not only with Pakistan but also with countries like Afghanistan and U.S.S.R.

Tarn Taran

24 kilometres south of Amritsar is Tarn Taran—a town famous for another important Gurdwara. The temple at this place was built in honour of Guru Arjun Dev and stands on the side of a large tank. Lepers

come from far off places to have a dip in the tank for it is believed that its water can help cure leprosy. A few kilometers away from Tarn Taran is the village of Goindwal, which is connected with the memory of Guru Amar Das who lived there. A Gurdwara built by the Guruji still stands there. As no space was available for a tank, a 'baoli' was constructed near the Gurdwara with a flight of 84 steps leading to it. Khadur Sahib is another sacred spot for the Sikhs. It is 32 kms.



Ram Tirath.

Gurdwara Goindwal Sahib



south-east of Amritsar city and is quite close to Goindwal. The Samadhi of the second Sikh Guru Angad Dev Ji was got built here by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1815.

Ram Tirath

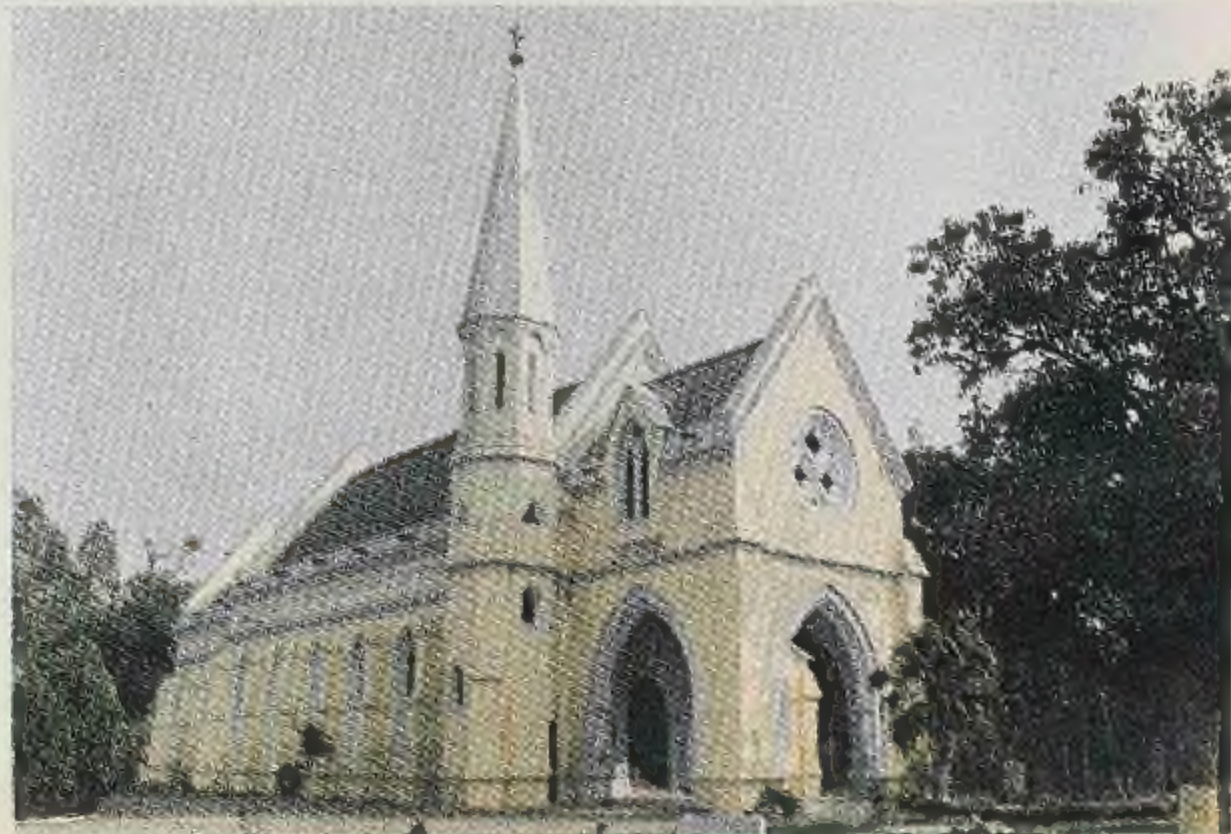
11 kilometers west of Amritsar on Chogawan road is Ram Tirath, a holy place with a big tank and many temples. Tradition has it that this was the place where Maharishi Balmik Ji had his Ashram and Mother Sita gave birth to Lava and Kusha. The Horse of the Ashvmedha Yagya organised by Rama was caught here and war between Rama and Lava and Kusha was fought here. Here even today stands the small hut where Sita is said to have given birth to Lava and Kusha. The hut of Rishi Balmiki and the well approached by stairs where Sita Ji used to take her bath early in the morning are also extant.

A big fair lasting for four days is held here since times



Gurdwara Baba Bakale

St. Paul's Church, Amritsar (1852). Amritsar has been a zealous centre of Christian activities



immemorial on every *kartika puran-mashi* night (full moon night in November). People to the tune of about two lakhs from all parts of the country visit the place.

Baba Bakala

Situated about 45 kilometres east of Amritsar on the Batala road this place is associated with the ninth Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadurji, who revealed himself to Makhan Shah Labana, a Sikh devotee. The place has a magnificent Gurdwara where people gather in thousands on every *amavas* (moonless night) and an annual fair is held on *Raksha Bandhan* day (night of full moon in August) when about one lakh people visit the place. After bestowing holy ministry on Sri Guru Hargobindji, Guru Tegh Bahadur had hidden himself from public eye. This day is considered to be the day on which Guru Tegh Bahadurji, the ninth Guru and father of Guru Gobind Singh Ji was located by his followers.



Khalsa College, Amritsar



Dera Jaimal Singh Satsang Hall, Beas

Dera Baba Jaimal Singh (Radhaswami Colony), Beas

About 54 kilometres east of Amritsar is Dera Baba Jaimal Singh, the Radhaswami colony near Beas. The colony is presided

over by a living Master who propagates the teachings of the Saints as understood by the followers of the Radhaswami faith. The Colony has a number of buildings, waterworks, a guest house for Western visitors and a

huge auditorium, a modern hospital besides a shopping centre. Followers of several creeds including Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians and Jews come here from all parts of the world. ■

BATHINDA

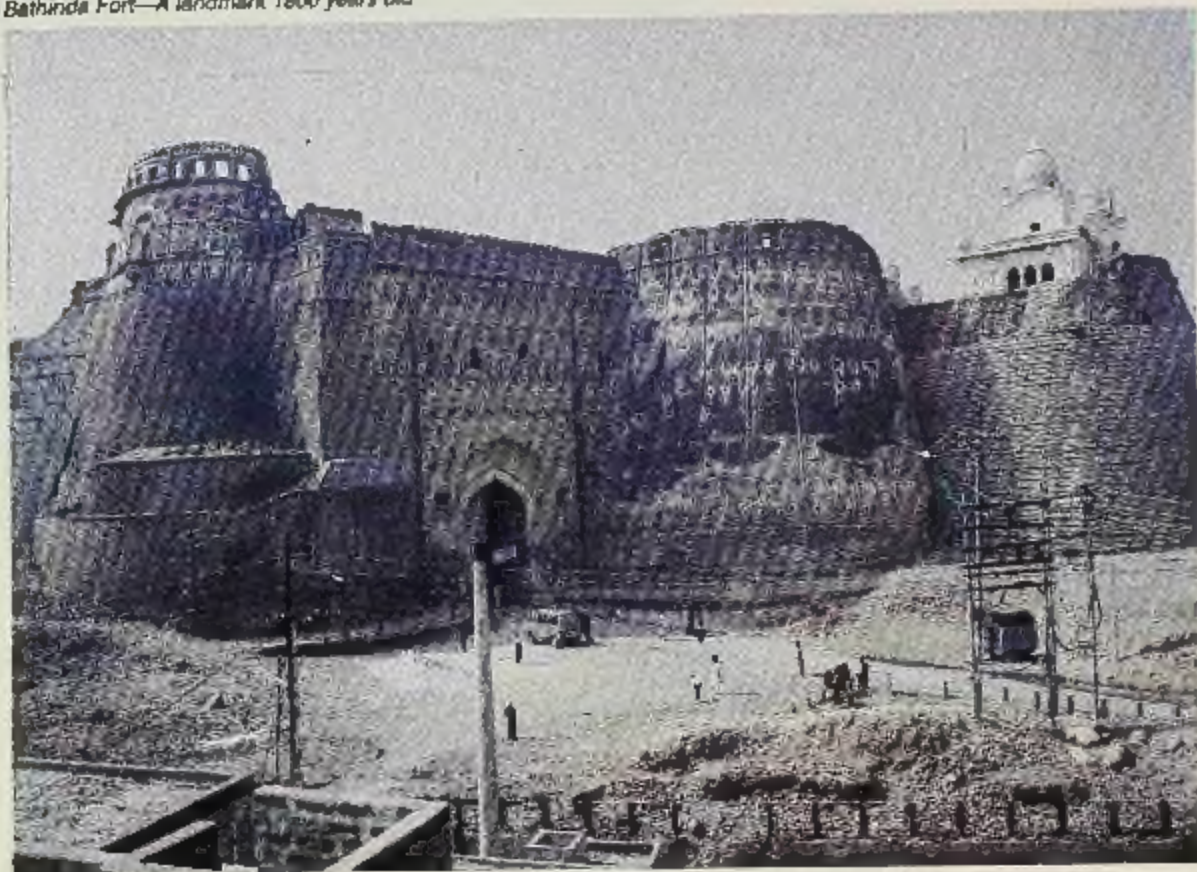
Bathinda, which is one of the oldest towns in the State has many historical associations. There is an ancient fort which is estimated to have been in existence for the last about 1,800 years. It was here in this Fort that ill-starred Queen, Razia Sultan, the daughter of king Altmash and the first woman to assume the throne in India was first incarcerated on her defeat and dethronement. It was again in the 'jungles' of

Bathinda that Guru Gobind Singh ji is reputed to have once challenged and fought the mighty Mughal forces. This town also played a prominent role in the freedom struggle of the country and against the autocratic administration of the then princely rulers. It was at 'Jaitu' (Distt. Faridkot) a small town at a distance of about 32 Kms. from here that the late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, when he came there on

the occasion of what is now called 'Jaitu Morcha' was arrested in 1922 by the erstwhile Nabha State.

Bathinda is a railway junction for Patiala, Chandigarh, Delhi, Ferozepore, Bikaner, Rewari and Abohar. It is, at present, one of the biggest foodgrain and cotton markets in Northern India. The area around Bathinda has become a large grape growing area.

Bathinda Fort—A landmark 1800 years old





Gurdwara Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Saboo

It is fast emerging as an industrial town. Guru Nanak thermal plant, a fertilizer factory and a milk plant are established here and several other projects are being set up.

Damdama Sahib or Talwandi Sabo

The holy place of Damdama Sahib or Talwandi Sabo known as 'Guru Kashi' for the Sikhs has a number of historical associations with Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Guru Gobind Singh Ji stayed here for about nine months and completed the recompilation of Guru Granth Sahib. This was the last prominent place in Punjab visited by the Great Guru.

A number of monuments connected with the memory of Guru Sahib are worth-seeing in Damdama Sahib.

Maisar Khana

It is famous for its Bhagwati Mandir. At this place religious

fair is held twice a year. About 4-5 lakh people, both Hindus and Sikhs, visit this temple for thanksgiving on the fulfilment of their vows.

The history of this temple

goes back to seventeenth century. It is said that Kamalu Bhagat, a resident of this village, which was known as Khana at that time, accompanied a Tapasavi namely Kalu Nath for a visit to Jawala Mukhi temple. About a kos short of Jawalamukhi temple, Kalunath lit his holy fire and prayed. It is said that Bhagwati Mata appeared on the scene. Impressed by this Kamalu Bhagat, on return to his village, started worshipping



Mandir Bhagwati Mata Maiserkhana.

Bhagwati Mata at the place of the present temple. It is believed the worship at Maisar Khana on the days of the fair is as sacred and sanctified as worship at Jawalaji temple. ■

FATEHGARH SAHIB

The Great Tirtha of the Sikhs, Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib lies just on the outskirts of Sirhind and on the metalled road running from Patiala to Ropar via Morinda. It is about 50 kms. to the north of Patiala with a Railway Station nearby. A serene and majestic commemorative Gur-dwara stands on the roadside to attract the attention of all passers-by who spontaneously bow their heads before it in homage.

The Gurdwara with its annexes commemorates the martyrdom of the two tender sons-Zorawar Singh (9 years) and Fateh Singh (7 years) of the tenth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who refused to apostasise from truth and religion under threat from their captor, the Suba of Sirhind and were suffocated to death in the walls which were raised around them. Alongside is the Burj of Mata Gujri-the grand-mother of these martyrs who could not survive the shock of their martyrdom. Nearby is the Gurdwara Jyoti Swarup where the cremation ceremonies of the three were performed under duress.



Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib.

Rauza Sharif at Sirhind

The Sikh shrines are not the only historic monuments at

Sirhind. Just in the vicinity of the great Gurdwara and only at a distance of a few paces to its

north lies the magnificent Rauza of Hazrat Mujadid-Alaf-Saani-Sheikh Ahmed Farooqi. The

beautiful and spacious mausoleum is visited annually in or about August by thousands of Naqshbandi Muslims from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia and India. The place is regarded as the second Mecca by Sunni Muslims all over the world. The Sheikh is considered as next to Hazrat Mohammed in the religious order, hence the title Alaf Saani. The annual Urs here is celebrated with all the zeal and enthusiasm shared, sometimes, by the Hindus and Sikhs too. In the premises of the mausoleum there are certain tombs and cenotaphs apart from a mosque. One such grand cenotaph is stated to be that of Shah Zaman of Afghanistan. It is said that this place was the burial



Magnificent Rauza Sharif

ground for the members of the Afghan Royal family. The shrine has since been taken over by the Government of India as an historic monument and regular employees have been kept here for its main-

tenance, upkeep and care.

AAM KHAS BAGH

Not far from Rauza Sharif in Sirhind and on the old highway which connected Delhi to the

Aam Khas Bagh





Sanghol Museum : Finds of Punjab's Ancient Civilisation.

north is a Mughal monument, Aam Khas Bagh, which, as its name denotes was a highway-inn for the use of royalty as well as common people which was initially built by Babar and extended and almost rebuilt by Emperor Shahjehan.

The royal part of the building has a mammoth water storage tank, a palace with beautiful murals on its walls, complete with hot-and-cold airconditioning facilities and a unique hydraulic system to work fountains.

Sanghol

Sanghol is a village in tehsil Khamano of the district of Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab State. It is situated

on the top of a mound which touches a height of 24 metres and is spread over an area of 200X200 metres. Situated at a distance of 40 kms. towards west from Chandigarh, off the Chandigarh-Ludhiana road, it is situated at a distance of about 32 kms. from Ropar.

According to the local tradition Sanghol was formerly known as "Sangaladwip" and the folk-lore of Rup Basant was associated with it. The name Sanghol might have been derived from Sanghalaya, a home of Sangh because some Buddhist monasteries were located here.

The long past of Sanghol is generally divided into six periods.

A large number of relics from that of late Harappan Culture (1700 B.C. to 1300 B.C.) to the 6th century A.D. onward have been found. These include pottery (water jars, cooking jars etc.) red polished ware, bangles, ivory combs, stone and terracotta beads, terracotta sealings, a gold coin of King Vasudeva Kushan and a large number of other coins, storage rooms, defence wall etc.

The excavations at Sanghol have given some clues of the great historical importance of ancient Punjab and a museum has been set up to preserve these finds. ■

FARIDKOT

Faridkot, the capital town of the erstwhile princely State of Faridkot, is the headquarters of a district named after it. This city owes its name to the famous Muslim mystic poet Baba Farid whose work has also found place in the Holy Granth Sahib. The legend runs that when Baba Farid came to this place he was drafted as a labourer on the construction of the fort. The basket which he

was given to carry the earth-floated above his head without any visible support. On seeing this divine revelation Sheikh Farid was allowed to depart and in his honour the town was renamed as Faridkot. There is a tomb of Baba Farid in this town, which is called 'Chilla Baba Farid'.

The town of Faridkot has been the focal point in the struggle for national liberation. 'Jaitu Ka Morcha' at a distance of about 40

kms. from Faridkot is a well-known event of the freedom struggle. It was the unique privilege of the people of this area that the architect of free India and the first Prime Minister, late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, personally participated in 'Jaitu Ka Morcha' and courted arrest first at Jaitu in 1923 and later on came to Faridkot in 1946 in support of the Praja Mandal Movement demanding a responsible Gov-

Gurdwara Tutti Ganddhi, Muktsar



ernment in the State which was then under the autocratic rule of the Maharaja.

Faridkot has many fine buildings, foremost among them being the former Secretariat building now housing the District Courts, Guest House, Clock Tower, Darbar Ganj and the Stadium. The former Ruler's palace is situated inside the town and there is also a Fort.

Muktsar

Muktsar, an important town situated at a distance of about 35 kms. from Faridkot, is famous for its Sikh shrines.

Gurdwara Shaheed Ganj at Muktsar commemorates the heroic death of those forty soldiers of Majha who deserted the tenth Guru during the siege of Anandpur Sahib but taunted by their womenfolk, rushed back to rejoin the Guru's army and died fighting for him. When the Guru came to know of all this he kissed everyone of the dead and the

dying and with tears of magnanimity in his eyes and as a sign of forgiveness, tore away their 'disclaimer' which they had

given to the Guru Ji before desertion. Guru Gobind Singh Ji named them as the 'emancipated ones' and those 40 'Muktas' are still remembered in the daily prayer of the Sikhs.

Gurdwara Tibbi Sahib commemorates the spot where the Guru stood and shot his arrows against the Mughal forces. It was here that the Guru rested his weary limbs for a while.

Muktsar also has Gurdwaras Rikab Sahib, Datan Sahib, Tamboo Sahib, Dukhbanjan Sahib commemorating incidents from the life of Guru Gobind Singh.



Gurdwara Gangsar Jaito

Old Court Complex



FEROZEPORE

Ferozepore city situated right on the Indo-Pakistan border is well connected by road as well as rail with Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jullundhar, Delhi, Chandigarh and the rest of the country. In normal times it is a centre of Indo-Pakistan trade.

According to a belief Ferozepore was founded in the 14th century by Ferozeshah Tughlak who had a passion for founding cities. It is also stated that Ferozepore was founded by one of the Bhatti Chiefs named Feroze Khan but the first version

is widely accepted.

There are a number of holy shrines, historic places and memorials in and around Ferozepore.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Memorial

Here on the banks of the river Satluj lies that hallowed piece of land on which the dead bodies of the hero-martyrs, Bhagat Singh and his two associates, Rajguru and Sukhdev, who had been executed at Lahore on March 23, 1931 by the British Government for raising a revolution against

the British Government, were cremated stealthily in the dead of night. A memorial depicting the irrepressible revolutionary spirit of the martyrs, has been built here. Every year on March 23 a fair is held at this place and thousands of people gather to pay their homage to the great martyrs who made supreme sacrifice in the cause of the country's freedom.

Saragarhi Gurdwara

Saragarhi Gurdwara is another historical memorial commemorating the memory of 21 Sikh

National Martyrs Memorial
Hussainiwala.



ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਸੁਖਦੇਵ
ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਸੁਖਦੇਵ



ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਬਖ਼ਤ ਸਿੰਘ
ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਬਖ਼ਤ ਸਿੰਘ



ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਰਾਜਗੁਰੂ
ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਰਾਜਗੁਰੂ

soldiers who heroically died one by one fighting against very heavy odds at Saragarhi post in Baluchistan and did not surrender. It is built in a beautifully laid and well kept park in Ferozepore on the Ferozepore-Lahore road. Every year on September 12 thousands of people gather at this place celebrating the Saragarhi Day and paying their tribute to the heroes. The memorial service on the day serves as a reunion of Ex-servicemen.

Jain Swetamber Temple

The Jain Swetamber Temple at Zira is also known as the Jain Temple. It was constructed in 1890 A.D. The late reverend Jain Acharya Shri Vijaya Nand Suri 'Atma Ramji Maharaj' (who was a scholar, poet, orator and a social reformer of the age) performed the holy *parishtha* ceremony of this temple in 1896 A.D. It is 105 feet high having 3 storeys. The second part of the Temple was constructed later in 1913-14 A.D. The paintings on the walls speak

of the ancient Jain culture and history. The life sketch of Jain Tirthankras can be studied through these paintings. The glass ceiling of the temple introduces the

visitors to the artistic taste of the age. This temple is named after the 23rd Tirthankra Shri Parsavanath Maharaj. The main idol, believed to be one of the most sacred and ancient, was brought from Palitana Sidhgr in Saurashtra. There are also brass idols some of which are older than twelve hundred years.

Anglo-Sikh War Memorial Ferozeshah (Pherushahar)

Commemorates the first Anglo Sikh war. The British, having lost at Ferozeshah were preparing to surrender when due to the treachery of Misr Teja Singh the Sikh victory was turned into defeat.



Saragarhi Memorial, Ferozepur

Anglo Sikh War Memorial, Ferozeshah (Pherushahar)



GURDASPUR

Gurdaspur, which is a border district of the State, has played a significant role in the defence of the country. Batala and Dhariwal are important industrial centres known respectively for the manufacture of machine tools and woollen products. Dera Baba Nanak and Sri Hargobindpur have great religious sanctity and Pathankot—a great tourist transit centre has a number of picnic spots nearby.

Dera Baba Nanak

Situated 35 kms. west of

Gurdaspur just on the border of Pakistan is Dera Baba Nanak which is as sacred to the Sikhs as Madina is to the Mohammedans. Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism spent about 12 years of his later life at this place. His lineal descendants, known as Bedis, still reside in this town. A gurdwara was erected at the place in 1787 where the Guru used to sit in meditation. In 1825, Maharaja Ranjit Singh made a handsome contribution for its improvement. The Gurdwara has the proud privilege of containing the precious robes of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. These robes were

presented to him when he visited Mecca. Thousands of pilgrims visit this place on the eve of Maghi in second week of January every year from all over the country. Closeby is a temple known as Tahli Sahib which was washed away by the Ravi in 1869 but was rebuilt later.

Sri Hargobindpur

Sri Hargobindpur, a historical town, is situated at a distance of 38 kms. in the south of Gurdaspur. The sixth Guru Hargobind Ji founded this town. Guru Sahib fought a fierce battle at this place against the Mughal armies. At the place called Damdama where Guru Sahib took rest during the battle, a Gurdwara known as Gurdwara Damdama Sahib has been constructed.

Pathankot

Pathankot, an obscure town before 1947 has become a major tourists transit centre visited by thousands of Indian and foreign tourist. It is a halting station for tourists visiting places like Jammu & Kashmir, Kangra and Kulu Valleys and Dalhousie and



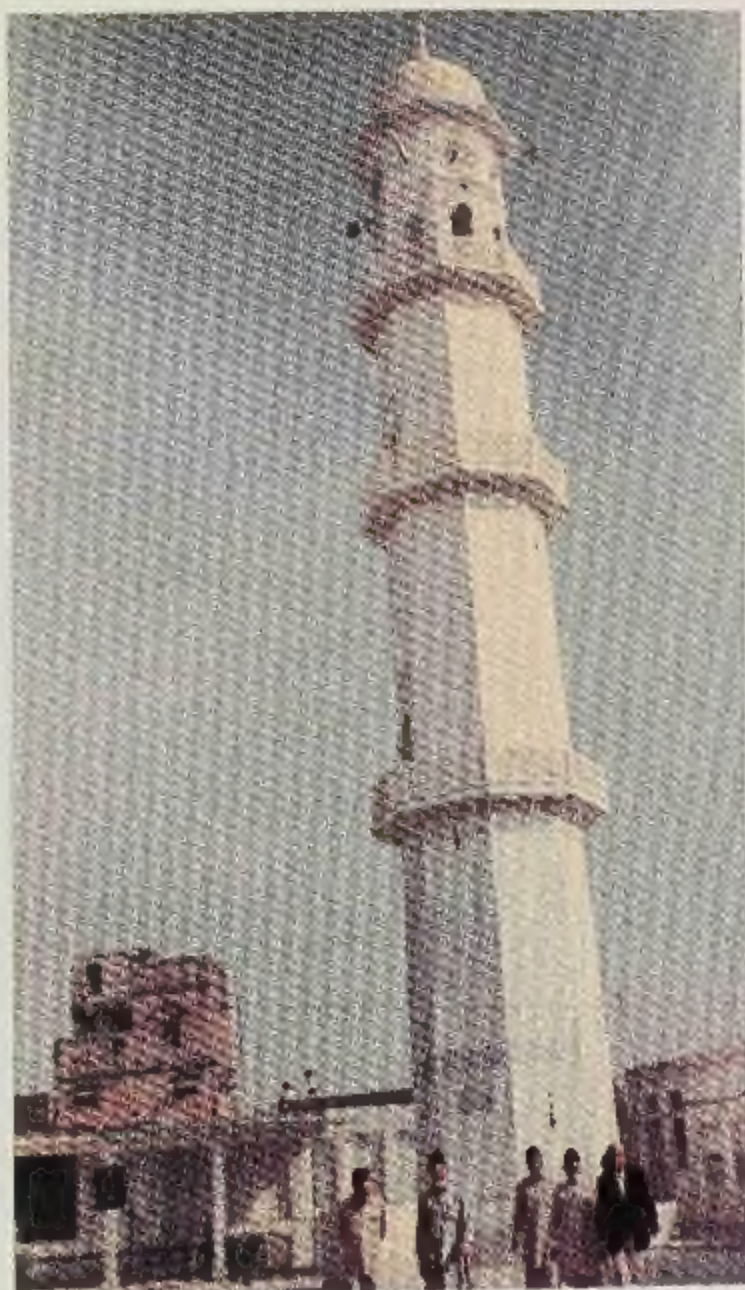
Gurdwara Sahib Dera Baba Nanak

Chamba. The importance of this town lies in being the only connecting link between Jammu & Kashmir State and the rest of the country.

Pathankot lies at a distance of 485 kilometres from Delhi, via Mukerian and 554 kms, via Amritsar. The town has a distinct scenic charm of its own with a number of attractive picnic spots around it. It is situated at the northern most edge of Bari Doab, the Ravi and the Beas flowing almost at equal distance from it. From here the upward ascent to the hilly areas starts and the landscape changes gradually. This lends a great charm to the local scenery and a number of picnic spots have sprung up around it. A visitor can spend his leisure time at Malikpur, Asia's foremost Hydraulic Research Station at the Upper Bari Doab Canal or at Madhopur known for the famous headworks on the river Ravi or at Shahpur Kandi, a place of unique beauty on the river Ravi.

QADIAN

Qadian in Gurdaspur district is the main centre of Muslim Jamat called Ahmedeya. It is venerated as second Mecca. Over a century ago at this place this new sect of Muslims came into being. Besides the Ahmadiyas



Minar Qadian

mosque there is a beautiful tomb of the founder. At this centre Ahmadiyas from all the world

over gather for their annual congregation during the last week of the year. ■

HOSHIARPUR

Hoshiarpur which is 45 kms. from Jullundur by road, is the district headquarters having a number of educational institutions. There is a Vedic Research Institute (V.V.R.I.) which publishes books on Indology and Vedic scriptures, etc. The town is known for manufacture of wooden toys and musical instruments as well. (Harmonium, Tabla, Sitar etc.).

Dholbaha

The ancient temple village of Dholbaha is situated at a distance of 30 kms. from Hoshiarpur in a picturesque valley at the foot of Shivaliks in the district of Hoshiarpur.

Local tradition associates this place with the legendary King Dhol. Archaeology has pushed back its antiquity to the pleistocene period when the stone age man roamed up and down the terraces and hillocks of the valley for food, water and shelter. His imperishable artifacts that are left behind consist of chopper-chopping tools and handaxes. In due course of time the scene was occupied by the neolithic man whose presence is attested to by the find of a neolithic celt. In the scale of economic development during this period man had given up his wild way to a settled life.

Pottery, sculptures and architectural remains are found scattered over an area of nearly four square miles. A large number of amalakas, buried walls, plinths, temple plans and other architectural pieces fairly establish the presence of several temples at various places. Perhaps the oldest sculpture is a head of Vishnu roughly dateable to the 7th-8th century A.D. The other important ones are a reclining Ganesha, Siva Parvati, female figures or couples on architectural members and a statue depicting four Jina images seated back to back. Most of the sculptures are of sandstone.

Thakar Dwara Ram Titwali

This historic temple is situated at a distance of 30 Kms. from Hoshiarpur near Pandh and Chanlbagh. It is reputed to have been visited by Maharaja Ranjit Singh and is maintained on the income of jagirs. The temple has some beautiful murals depicting Shri Krishna's Leela.

Virat ki-Nagri

Dasuya situated 40 kms. north-west of Hoshiarpur is also known as Virat-Ki-Nagri. Legend goes that it was founded 5,000 years ago and was capital of Raja

Virat mentioned in the Mahabharata. The Hindu population of the town still calls it Virat-Ki-Nagri, and a Hindu speaking of it early in the morning must call it only by this name, for there is a superstition against using any other name for it before the first meal of the morning. It was in the service of Raja Virat that the Pandavas spent the thirteenth year of their exile under various pseudonyms. There is an old fort here which is still regarded as belonging to that age.

Tombs of Khwaja Dewan Chishti and Nadir Ali Shah

There is a tomb of Hazrat Khawaja Dewan Chishti - a Muslim Saint at Village Ardothala near Hoshiarpur. A large number of Muslim devotees from Pakistan also come here to pay a visit to this shrine every year. Another place of Muslim worship is the tomb of Hazrat Nadir Ali Shah at village Jahan Khelan at a distance of a few kms. from Hoshiarpur in this district. This place is also visited by a large number of Muslims from India and Pakistan every year. ■

JALANDHAR

Jalandhar, a town of great antiquity situated at a distance of about 84 kms. from Amritsar on the G.T. road going to Calcutta is the most important town of the area known as the 'Bastis' (Basti Bawa Khel, Basti Guzan, Basti Danishmandan, etc.) tell the story of the domination of this place by Pathan rulers.

Jalandhar known for its sportmen as well as its sports

industry is a growing industrial town having steel and iron re-rolling rubber goods, electric goods, automobile parts, and sewing machine factories. Hand-loom products are also manufactured at Jalandhar.

Besides being an important centre of education it is the headquarters of the Punjab Armed Police with a fine stadium on Grand Trunk Road. The mauso-

Devi Talab





Serai, Nur Mehal.

According to a legend a newly married Hindu girl, a devotee of Lord Shiva, was saved by serpents when she was being taken to the residence of the Nawab of Sultanpur Lodhi to fulfill his lust. He begged pardon from the Hindu girl and on her initiative built a temple at the present site near Masjid Imam Nasar.

Harballabh Fair

The most notable event in Jalandhar is the annual Har Bhallabh Fair which is held every year from 26th to 29th of December. Prominent exponents of classical music, both vocal and instrumental, from all over the country gather to provide a rare feast of music for the connoisseur. The Sangeet Sammelan is held in the premises of Devi Talab one and a half kms. from the Railway Station. Jalandhar has been in the thick of the fight for freedom from the British Raj and has produced many patriots. A Desh-

Shiv Mandir.



leum of Imam Nasir at Jalandhar and an old Fort at Phillaur are worth-seeing historical monuments. The Fort, which once guarded Maharaja Ranjit Singh's boundary against the British, now houses the Police Training college at Phillaur.

SHIV MANDIR

Situated in Gur Mandi, Shiv Mandir dates back to Lodhi era.

Bhagat Memorial Hall has been constructed here to perpetuate the memory of such martyrs.

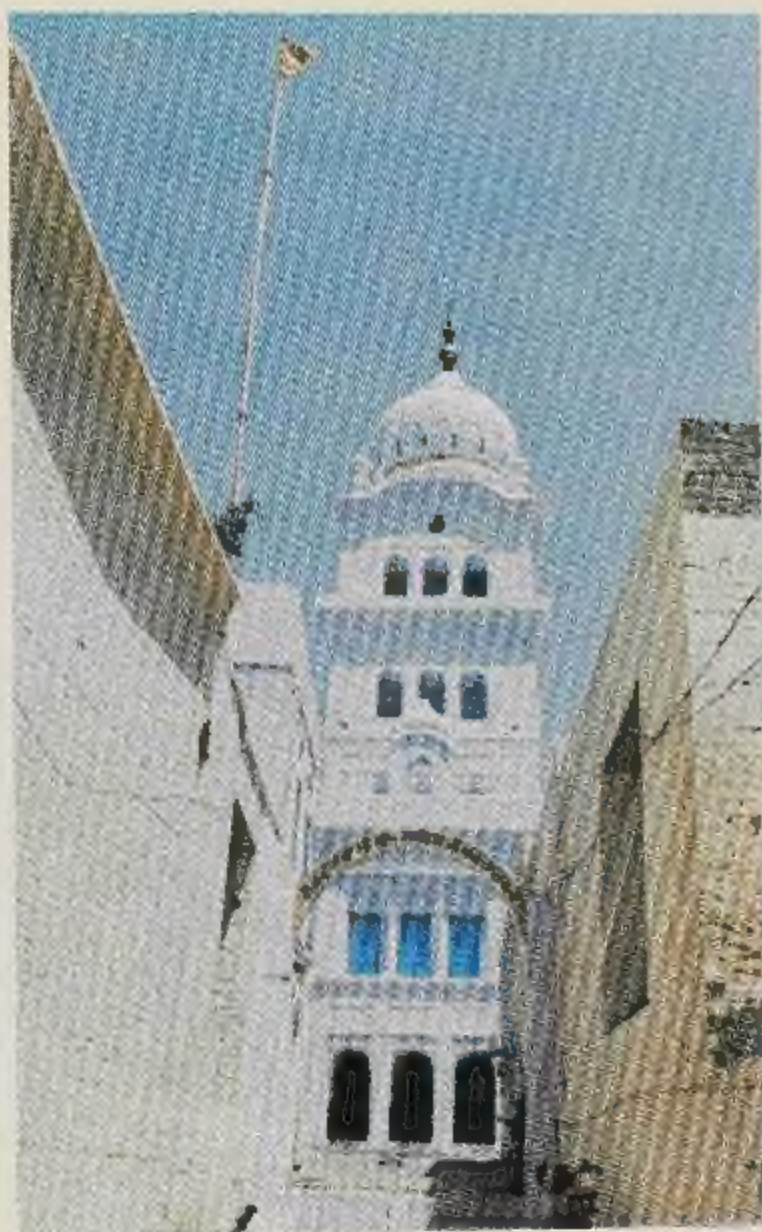
Nurmahal

Nurmahal is a small town 13 kms. from Nakodar and is associated with the memory of Nurjahan, queen of Jehangir. There used to be an under-ground tunnel through which Nurjahan used to travel on horseback during hot sunny days to take her bath at a public stream and it is claimed that turrets were provided over the tunnel where drummers announced the coming of the gracious lady by beating their drums. A Mughal Serai known as Serai Nurmahal is worth seeing.

Kartarpur

About 16 kms. from Jalandhar towards Amritsar lies Kartarpur, a small town known mostly for its furniture industry. It is a historical place connected with a Gurdwara the 5th Guru Arjun Dev Ji got built in 1656 A.D. The Gurdwara is worth-seeing and every year on the birth anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev Ji a fair is held here and a large number of people from all over the country congregate here to pay homage to the Guru.

Kartarpur is also known as the birth place of Swami Virjanand who was the teacher of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the illustrious founder of the Arya Samaj. A memorial (Guru Virjanand Smarak) has been constructed in his memory.



Gurdwara Thumb Sahib, Kartarpur

NAKODAR

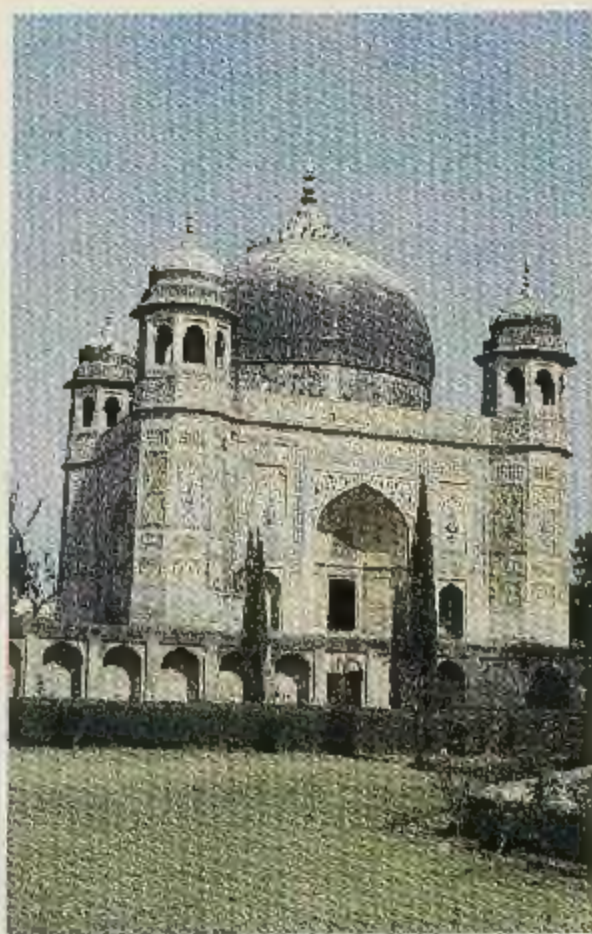
Nakodar has historical tombs of early 17th century. One of these tomb is of Mohammad Momin Hussaini alias Hafizak. He was a musician in the service of Khan-i-khana in the beginning of the reign of Jahangir. He is remembered by the title of 'Ustad'. This tomb was built in 1612 A.D.

The second tomb is of Haji Jamal, a pupil of Mohammad Hussiani. It is said that within this tomb is the grave of Haji Jamal and on the platform there are some other graves which according to local tradition belong to a thief and a dog.

These tombs are maintained as protected monuments by the State Archeological Department. ■



Makbara Ustad at Nakodar (Jalandhar)



Makbara Shagird at Nakodar (Jalandhar).

SANGRUR

Sangrur, which was once a small insignificant village belonging to the erstwhile princely State of Nabha grew to enjoy the proud privilege of becoming the splendid capital of the erstwhile Jind State for over a century. It is situated at a distance of nearly 80 kms. from Ludhiana and 48 kms. from Patiala occupying almost a pivotal position on the map of Punjab. One of the district headquarters of Punjab

now, it has a chequered history.

Sangrur is a well-planned city. The roads are wide and avenues and lanes are broad. Among the few places which need mention are the Government Civil Secretariat, the Dewan Hall or the Assembly House of the old state. In the north of the town is the well-planned and attractive Banasar Garden which is largely utilised as a picnic spot. Its

spacious lawns with well-trimmed hedges have provided a venue for wrestling matches, political meetings and variety entertainments. It is said that at this spot elephant fights used to be arranged in olden days. Though sadly neglected at present there is still much to show how magnificent it must have been in the heyday of the Jind State. ■

KAPURTHALA

Kapurthala is the headquarter of the district named after it. Previously it was the capital of the erstwhile Kapurthala State. It is situated towards west of Jullundur City at a distance of 19 kms. It is said to have been founded by Nawab Kapur Singh.

The most striking building in the town is a fine Hindu temple called the 'Panch Mandir' built by Sardar Fateh Singh in the heart of Kapurthala town. The principal dome in the centre is surrounded by several smaller temples dedicated to different

deities. A replica of this temple was exhibited in the pre-partition Punjab Museum at Lahore.

Moorish Mosque, a Muslim place of worship at Kapurthala is indeed a unique building in India built in Moorish style. It was designed by famous French architect M. Manteaux. It has a large compound paved with the purest Indian marble. The inner dome has been decorated by the artists of the School of Art, Lahore.

The Shalimar Garden is a lovely small garden with a

swimming pool and a library, having 'Samadhis' of the former Rulers of the erstwhile Kapurthala State which have some excellent filigree work.

The Jagatjit Palace now housing the Sainik School is a remarkable building which harmonises French architecture with oriental surroundings. The audience room with its frescoed ceiling and the eastern terrace bear witness to the high artistic and aesthetic taste of the enlightened Rulers.

Moorish Mosque





Gurdwara Ber Sahib, Sultanpur Lodhi.

The Government college and the Sainik School are situated in ideal surroundings and the school has a relief map of India in cement which shows hills, rivers, rails, etc.

A few miles from Kapurthala is the rivulet of Bein, which is surrounded by natural scenery and is a favourite resort for picnic, boating and fishing. Villa Buona Vista, built on the banks of the 'Bein' is the residence of H.H the Maharaja of Kapurthala and looks charming in these natural surroundings.

Gurdwara Ber Sahib

Gurdwara Ber Sahib is a renowned place of pilgrimage of the Sikhs from all over the country.



Sainik School

It is situated amid a constellation of other Gurdwaras connected with Guru Nanak Devji who spent the early years of his life in and around Sultanpur Lodhi, a town 30 kms. south of Kapurthala. It is named after the 'Ber' tree under

which Shri Guru Nanak Devji used to meditate.

Other historical buildings include Mazar Shah, Hujara Hajira and a Serai which is the oldest building in Sultanpur. ■

LUDHIANA

Ludhiana, the principal town and headquarters of the district of the same name has become a byword in small-scale industry. It is the biggest centre of hosiery, both cotton and woollen in the country. Two Medical Colleges, an Engineering College and the Punjab Agricultural University is also located here. The Agricultural University has made significant contribution in evolving high yielding varieties of wheat, maize and other foodgrains and is renowned centre of education.

There are a number of historical Gurdwaras associated with the life and visits of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Among them, the Gurdwaras of Charan Kanwal and Manji Sahib are very important. Bhaini Sahib, the birth place of Sat Gur Ram Singh Ji, the founder of the Namdhari Sect is also an important historic place here. Ludhiana being a prominent cantonment of the British during Maharaja Ranjit Singh days has, had significant historical importance.

The district can also rightly boast of its contribution in the national struggle for freedom. Among the great patriots belonging to this district are Lala Lajpat Rai, Sardar Kartar Singh Saraba, Sat Gur Ram Singh, Sardar Jagat Singh Binjhal, Baba Santa Singh, Bhai Bhan Singh, S. Ishar Singh and Maulana Habibur Rehman.



Gurdwara Charan Kanwal, Machhiwara

Gurdwara Charan Kanwal

This Gurdwara is situated at village Machhiwara about 35 kms. from Ludhiana. Historically an important Sikh shrine, it stands

in a mango grove creating a soothing impression on the visitors.

When the fortress of Chamkaur Sahib was besieged

by Mughal forces of Emperor Aurangzeb Guru Gobind Singh Ji resisted the onslaught with unyielding gallantry and succeeded in giving a slip to the enemy and ultimately entering the forest of Machhiwara. The forces of Mughal Emperor searched for Guru Ji and got a clue of his whereabouts. Luckily, two Muslim residents of Machhiwara who were his devotees saved him from falling into the hands of Mughal forces by disguising Guru Ji as their Muslim prophet. The place at Machhiwara where Guru Ji had some rest is a famous Sikh shrine and is named after his lotus feet. The well from where Guru Ji had quenched his thirst also exists just near the Gurdwara.

Gurdwara Manji Sahib Alamgir

Gurdwara Manji Sahib Alamgir one of the most famous Sikh shrines in Punjab is situated at Alamgir at a distance of about 10 kms. from Ludhiana. This is a six-storeyed building beautifully decorated and paved with marble. The Gurdwara has been erected at the spot where the sacred cot in which Guru ji was carried here by the two Muslim devotees from Machhiwara was placed. There is a 10 feet deep tank near the Gurdwara commemorating the place where Guru Gobind Singh shot an arrow and the parched land yielded water.

Amenities of free boarding and lodging are provided to the



Gurdwara Manji Sahib—Alamgir



Bhaini Sahib The Meditation Hall

Rural Museum PAU Ludhiana.





Gurdwara Nanaksar Sahib (Jagraon)

pilgrims. Every year a congregation is held on 14, 15 and 16th Posh (last week of December) when about two lakhs people come for pilgrimage.

Gurdwara Nanaksar Sahib (Jagraon)

Situated near Jagraon at a distance of about 38 kms. from Ludhiana on Ferozepur Road Gurdwara Nanaksar Sahib is a popular shrine of the Sikhs. Spread within the walled area of about

eleven acres the building of the shrine is a model of elegance and architecture. The place was founded by Saint Nand Singh, popularly known as the Saint Kaleran about half a century ago in the memory of his divine master Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The sanctum sanctorum of the place is a subterranean shrine called 'Sach Khand' or abode of God. It has goldplated door leaves and is decorated with life size pictures of Guru Nanak Dev

Ji in a semi-lotus painting by a local artist under inspiration and guidance of Baba Nand Singh himself. The centre of the room is occupied by a richly draped, mega-volume of the Holy Granth Sahib. The annual gathering known as 'barsi' is a five-day function which is concluded on a day corresponding to 13th Bhadon (August). It is attended by nearly one lakh devotees from all parts of India. ■

PATIALA

The merger of PEPSU in Punjab in 1956 and its close proximity to Chandigarh have not robbed Patiala of any of its importance although many had feared the decline of this erstwhile princely capital on account of these factors. The location of a number of offices of the Punjab government and the establishment of the Punjabi University at Patiala have rather added to its importance.

The old and the new worlds go hand in hand in Patiala. Its massive forts, its magnificent palaces and its narrow and crooked lanes preserve all the charm of the old world while its modern buildings and institutions, gardens and wide concrete roads make it look a pre-eminently young city equipped with all the amenities of present day life.

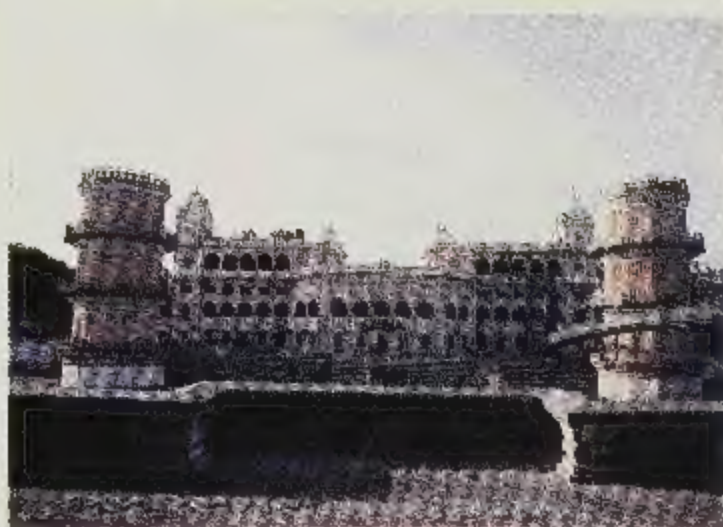
Baba Ala Singh of the Phulkian family laid the foun-

dation stone of the present Fort (the Qila Mubarik) in 1764 which was completed during the time of Maharaja Amar Singh who succeeded his grandfather Baba Ala Singh in 1765. Within a few years it grew into a small walled city and later on into a big city.

A large number of fine buildings have been constructed here. These include the new Rajindra Hospital, the Government Medical College, Central Public Library

Qila Mubarik Patiala





Sheesh Mahal

and the new Campus of the Punjabi University. Also worth-seeing are the Motibagh Palace, Qila Mubarik, Bahadurgarh Fort, Baradari Gardens, Gurdwara Dukhniwaran Sahib, Temple Kali Devi, and statue of Mahatma Gandhi set amidst the picturesque Rajindra Tank.

National Institute of Sports

The Moti Bagh Palace, residence of the erstwhile rulers of Patiala which now belongs to the nation houses the National Institute of Sports. The Archives of the Punjab Government here have the richest collection of manuscripts and paintings, a collection of medals of all nations, the only one of its kind in the whole world. Specimens of the famous Star of the Order of the Punjab instituted by Maharaja Ranjit Singh and pieces of old ornaments and artillery have a



N.I.S. Patiala

unique antique value.

Ghuram

Ghuram, a village in Patiala District, is an ancient place with many ruins in its vicinity which show that it was a great town in former days. According to the historians (including Dr. Ganda Singh and Dr. Fauja Singh) this village was the first capital of

Muslim rule in India during the last two decades of the 12th century. Later, the capital of the Muslim empire was shifted to Delhi. It is also stated to have been referred to by Guru Gobind Singh in his Dasam Granth. Guru Gobind Singh had visited the place to meet his admirer Mian Said Bhikh. A little to the east of the village is the shrine of Mian Said Bhikh. Here a fair is held in June/July every year.

Near it stands an old fort to

the south of which is a garden surrounded by a pucca wall, adjacent to which is a large tank.

Tradition avers that the village was the abode of the maternal grandfather of Raja Ram Chander Ji of Ayodhya. ■

ROPAR

The small city of Ropar occupies a prominent place not only in the ancient and medieval history of India but an equally conspicuous place in the modern history also. It was here under a 'peepul' tree that a memorable meeting between Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Lord William Bentick took place on October, 31, 1831. The time-worn old 'peepul' was uprooted in a storm a few years back.

Ropar, once called 'Rup

Nagar', is situated near the Satluj head-works between Nangal and Chandigarh. The story of this town goes far back into antiquity and recent excavations point to it as one of the oldest towns in Punjab. The relics excavated show that the town had flourished in the past with a very advanced civilization similar to the 'Harappa and Mohenjodaro' civilization.

The town which has recently been made a district headquarter, presents to us some marvels of

the modern engineering skill. It was from here in 1874 that the famous Sirhind canal was channelised from the left side of the river Satluj. The lake formed by the Ropar head-works constitutes a major tourist attraction. At a distance of about twelve kms. from here and on the way to Nangal lies the Sirsa aqueduct built at a cost of Rs. 73 lakh. Nearby are Guru Gobind Singh

Hola Mohalla Procession at Takhal
Sri Keshgarh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib.



Thermal Plant and the Power Houses of Kotla and Ganguwal.

Anandpur Sahib

Situated on the left bank of the river Satluj at a distance of about 41 kms. from Ropar on the Chandigarh—Nangal Road, Anandpur Sahib, the abode of peace, with its numerous Gurdwaras stands out in its picturesque relief against the Naina Devi mountain range. This place is reputed to be the spot where the sage Vashishta meditated and performed his austerities and Maharishi Balmiki composed the great epic, Ramayana.

The town is said to have been founded by Guru Tegh Bahadurji, the ninth Sikh Guru. It was here that Guru Gobind Singh ji, the tenth and the last Guru baptised the first five Sikhs called 'Panj Payaras' and raised the Saint-Soldier fraternity of the 'Singhs' which he named as 'Khalsa'.

Anandpur Sahib wears a festive appearance and hums with activity in the months of March-April every year. Thousands of devout Sikhs gather here to participate in a grand fair of Holi Mohalla which is held on the day following the Holi Festival.

The town contains many fine

buildings and temples dating back to the time of the Gurus. The more important of these are:-

1. Guruka Mahal—built by Guru Tegh Bahadur (his grandsons were born and brought up here).
2. Gurdwara Tegh Bahadur Ji (built on the spot where the head of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, who was executed at Delhi in 1675, was cremated by Guru Gobind Singh).
3. Gurdwara Keshgarh Sahib stands on the place where the Khalsa was born. At this place Guru Gobind Singh Ji administered 'Amrit' to his first batch of five disciples making them Singhs. It is one of the Takhts or temporal seats of Khalsa.
4. Gurdwara Anandgarh Sahib has a baoli or deep well around which about a thousand people can be accommodated. The place was used as fort during war by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
5. Gurdawara Damdama Sahib is at a place where coronation of Guru Gobind Singh Ji as the tenth Guru, took place.
6. Gurdwara Mai Jitoji is the 'Samadh' of Majito ji, wife of Guru Gobind Singhji. Harmandir Sahib, Sishmahal Sahib and Takhat Sahib commemorate various events in the life of Guru Har Raji, the seventh Guru.

Chamkaur Sahib

It is another important Sikh shrine in the neighbourhood of Ropar having historic associations with Guru Gobind Singhji. Several Gurdwaras marking the visits and halts of Guru Gobind Singhji are located here. But the biggest of these is at the site where two of his sons fell fighting against Mughal hordes.

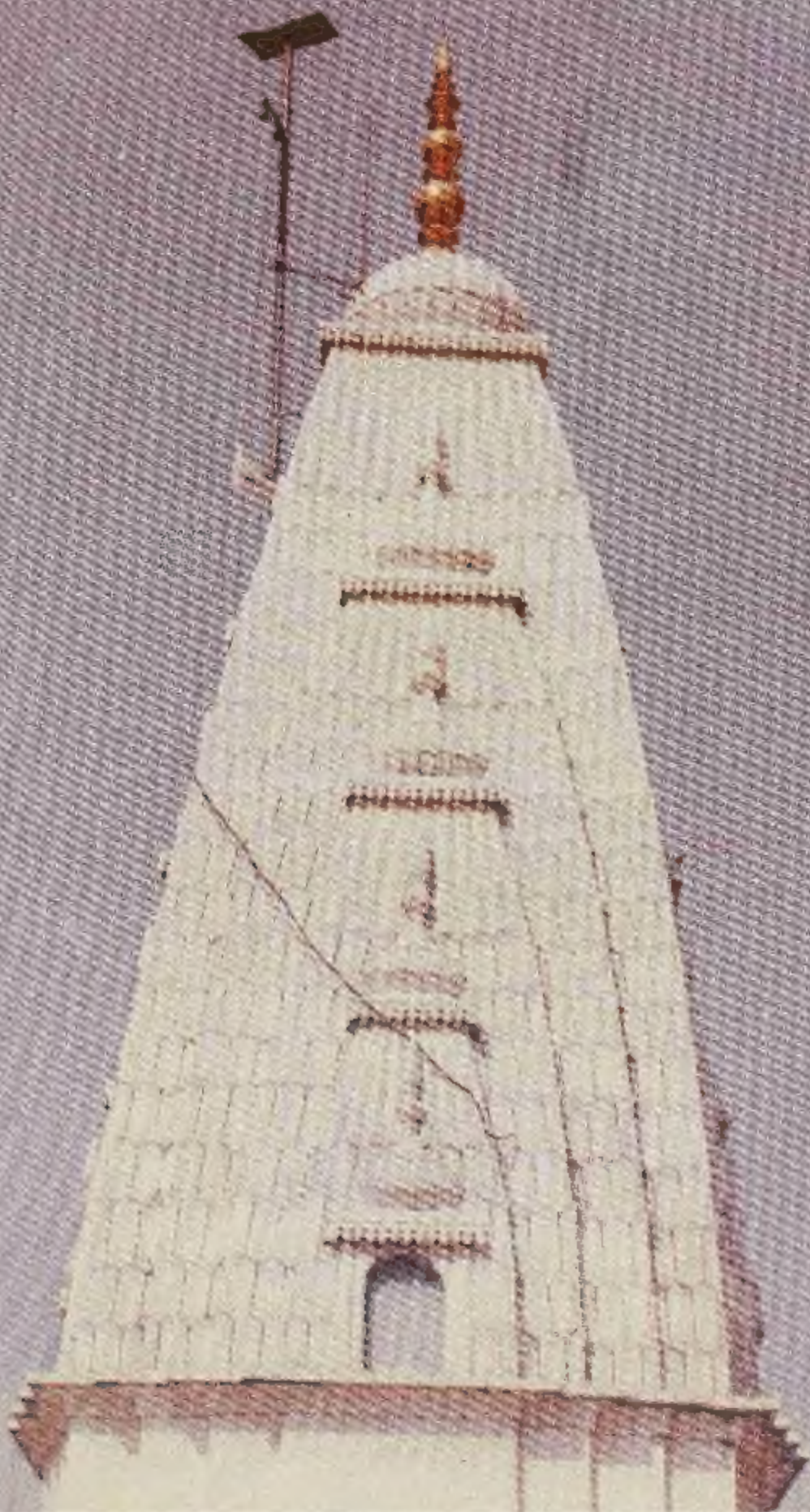
The Gurudawara is an important structure with a dome and minarets in the Muslim style of architecture. It is an imitation of the Guru Sahib's own Samadhi at Hazur Sahib in Nanded. Tradition says that a devotee who had gone to Hazur Sahib was told in a dream to render his devotions at Chamkaur instead of Nanded and then he built the Gurdwara according to the design he brought from there.

Bhakra-Nangal Project

There is much to see at Bhakra and Nangal. The various works connected with the Bhakra-Nangal Project viz. the Bhakra Dam, the Nangal Dam, Nangal Hydel Channel, Ganguwal and Kotla Power Houses etc. are symbolic of the resurgent India's will to usher in plenty and prosperity. ■

Wrd Title: An imposing view of a Jain temple at Zira in Ferozepur district

Back Title: Jailianwala Bagh, Amritsar, a memorial to the Martyrs



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